

Appln. No. 09/958,196
Amendment
Reply to Office Action dated July 29, 2004

Docket No. 304-770

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and these remarks are in response to the Office Action dated September 22, 2004. This amendment is timely filed.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-20 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-18 were allowed. Applicant has presented minor amendments herein to claims 1-3, 6-15, 17 and 18 for reasons unconnected to patentability.

The Office Action rejected claims 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, and for being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. Applicant has amended claims 19 and 20 herein to recite method steps, and it is believed that these claims are now in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As applicant believes that claims 19 and 20 are now allowable in addition to claims 1-18, prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant has made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art, and it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Date: 12/22/04

Respectfully submitted,



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